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April 19, 1935

Mr. Howland Wood
Curator of the American Numismatic Society
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Last summer we sent to you a questionnaire with regard to your possible possession of manuscripts of India and Greater India. Lacking a reply we venture to ask you again if you own any such manuscripts. Information in our files, which may be incorrect, indicates that you may possess such. In the event that you do not, kindly forgive our importunity.

Very sincerely yours,

Horace I. Poleman

Horace I. Poleman

April 26, 1935.

Library of Congress
Division of Manuscripts
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of April 19th would say that I have no Indic manuscripts whatsoever. The library of the American Numismatic Society has none either. I do have several Arabic manuscripts written by Mohammadan blacks in Liberia and the regions north of there, as well as an Arabic manuscript written by a slave in Elegen County, North Carolina in 1831, and which was published in the American Historical Review, Vol. XXX, No. 4, July 1925. I am returning the sheet you sent not filled out, as I had nothing to report under this line.

Very truly yours,

HW:JC

Curator

EW

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SUPERINTENDENT OF READING ROOMS

August 15, 1935

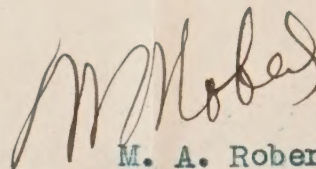
My dear Mr. Wood:

We have an inquiry from a distinguished patron of our Library for information as to the value of a Massachusetts Colonial pound as of 1732.

We have been informed that the Spanish dollar and British pound were generally used in specie transactions at that time and that the Massachusetts Colonial pound was "money of account".

However, if you could inform me as to the accepted value at that time (1732) of a Massachusetts Colonial pound the courtesy would be appreciated.

Very sincerely,



M. A. Roberts
Superintendent of Reading Rooms.

Mr. Howland Wood
Curator

American Numismatic Society
156th street and Broadway
NEW YORK CITY

August 20, 1935.

Mr. M. A. Roberts
Superintendent of Reading Rooms
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Although I find no direct reference as to the value of a Massachusetts Colonial pound as of the year 1732, I think the following information will prove that silver cost that year at the rate of 19 shillings an ounce. Quoting from remarks on the Early Paper Currency of Massachusetts by Nathaniel Paine, Cambridge 1866, we get the following: p. 30 ff.:

"1728 - Silver went up from 19 shillings to 27 shillings the ounce and continued about the same rate for several years.

"1733 - Merchants and others of Boston finding the Treasury curtailed attempted to supply the deficiency by engaging in a project for issuing paper to the value of 110,000 pounds! These bills were to be redeemable in two years with silver at the common rate of Province paper which was at this time 19 shillings an ounce.....

From a Historical Account of Massachusetts Currency by Joseph B. Felt, Boston 1839, pp. 83 ff.

From 1710 to 1727 silver went from 8 shillings to 17 shillings an ounce.

"1729 - April 18. The popular phrenzy will never stop till the credit will be as bad as they are in New England where an ounce of silver is worth 20 shillings of their paper...

"1732 - January 20. As offices of Courts of Justice have recently refused to take their fees except in silver a committee of the representatives report that so scarce is specie and so necessary is it to preserve the credit of bills such a refusal must by no means be allowed.

"1733 - November 6. The bills of the private bank just mentioned amounted to 110,000 pounds and were redeemable in ten years with silver at 19 shillings an ounce, then the common rate of the Province paper.

"1734 - May 31.And yet 16 shillings in these bills will not at this day purchase 5 shillings lawful money.

Mr. Roberts - 2

August 20, 1935.

Further perusal of these two books should give the person making the inquiry a good background of the times.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

EW

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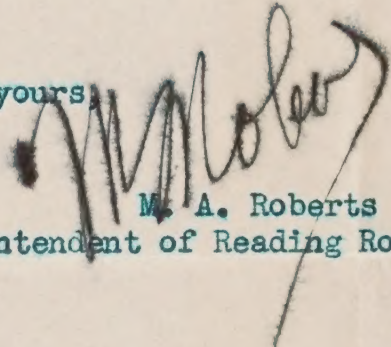
August 26, 1935

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your very interesting and valuable report
on the value of the Massachusetts colonial pound as of 1732.
It has proved very helpful.

With appreciation,

Very truly yours,


Mr. A. Roberts
Superintendent of Reading Rooms.

Mr. Howland Wood
Curator

The American Numismatic Society
Broadway between 155th and 156th streets
NEW YORK CITY